



CCM 2012 Testimony

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COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM supports House Bill 5344 "An Act Concerning Streamlining the State's Stormwater General Permitting Process."

HB 5344 would allow a qualified professional to certify that an applicant for a stormwater permit complies with all applicable state stormwater regulations and applicable local government soil erosion.

CCM's 2012 State Legislative Priorities includes a proposal to implement such a program.

Modeled after the "licensed environmental professional" program established within the Department of Environmental Protection to speed Brownfield remediation, this bill would, (1) streamline the process, (2) significantly expedite completion of local economic development projects, and (3) relieve the logjam within state agencies.

Currently, the permit and review process is a laborious and cumbersome bureaucracy. One that is extremely inefficient and time-consuming. In order for Connecticut to compete in a global economy, we have to streamline; look at things differently; and eliminate old ways that hinder progress. It is more efficient and effective to use state employees for oversight purposes, rather than as review and oversight agents.

CCM sees the audit and subsequent reporting as the protection and oversight on these permits. However, we encourage the committee to set a specific percentage of all permits issued to be audited to ensure statistical relevance and a more watchful eye.

CCM urges the committee to amend this bill and **require a 10% threshold of all permits to be audited** before taking any action on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM
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